

Members

Rep. Greg Porter, Chairperson
Rep. Terry Goodin
Rep. Phil Pflum
Rep. Phyllis Pond
Rep. Jeff Thompson
Rep. Sue Scholer
Sen. Luke Kenley, Vice-Chairman
Sen. Ron Alting
Sen. Teresa Lubbers
Sen. Frank Mrvan
Sen. Earline Rogers
Sen. Connie Sipes



INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT ISSUES

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 21, 2003
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., 156-C
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 4

Members Present: Rep. Greg Porter, Chairperson; Rep. Phil Pflum; Rep. Phyllis Pond; Rep. Jeff Thompson; Rep. Sue Scholer; Sen. Luke Kenley, Vice-Chairman; Sen. Teresa Lubbers; Sen. Frank Mrvan; Sen. Earline Rogers; Sen. Connie Sipes.

Members Absent: Sen. Ron Alting; Rep. Terry Goodin.

Chairman Porter called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m. He asked Senator Mrvan to speak on what actions he would like for the committee to take on SCR 4 concerning administrative rules for preschools. Senator Mrvan urged the committee to look at legislation from last session on this issue as a source for new legislation that will address the safety of the children in preschools and child care. He stated that he would like for all preschools and child care providers, including

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religious groups, to be required by statute to be registered and to meet minimum standards.

There was lengthy discussion by the Committee concerning: (a) whether other committees, specifically, the Board for the Coordination of Child Care Regulation is already looking at the issue of preschool and child care regulation and possibly drafting legislation (b) bifurcating issues concerning preschools from child day care programs (c) research-based information needed to address the educational component of preschool (d) preschool quality and safety as primary goals of future legislation; and (e) whether a legislative fix is needed. The Committee agreed to defer to the findings and recommendations of the Board for the Coordination of Child Care Regulation concerning preschool administrative rules.

Chairman Porter asked Senator Kenley to speak on SB 36 from the 2003 session concerning students excluded from school. Senator Kenley distributed a bill draft to be presented to the 2004 general assembly based on SB 36. The bill draft contains the following provisions:

1. The establishment of a voluntary agreement for a court assisted resolution of suspension and expulsion cases between a court having juvenile jurisdiction and a school corporation.
2. The voluntary agreement allows the school corporation to refer a student who has been suspended or expelled to a court; the court shall either supervise the student or order the supervision of the student.
3. The court and the school corporation may jointly determine which violations leading to suspension or expulsion are eligible for referral to the court; however, if a voluntary agreement exists, a student who has been suspended or expelled for truancy must be referred to the court.
4. The school corporation and the court shall determine how the costs of supervising a student under the voluntary agreement shall be paid.
5. The school corporation may disclose the education records of a student who has been suspended or expelled to a court.

There was further discussion concerning: (a) what effect the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act will have on the bill draft (b) types of school suspensions; and (c) distributing copies of school records to prosecutors if delinquent acts are committed by students.

Chairman Porter announced that the last meeting of the Committee will be set in the near future and at that meeting issues concerning the educational achievement gap will be discussed.

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Porter adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.